**Surplus Employees in the Railways**

1933. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of surplus employees in the railways, category-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) whether the railways propose to retrench these employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The approximate number of Surplus staff on Zonal Railways as on 31.3.1998 is as under:

| *Railway* | *Category* | *Surplus* |
|---|---|---|
| Central Railway | C | 36 |
| | D | 164 |
| Eastern Railway | C | 34 |
| | D | 57 |
| Northern Railway | C | 795 |
| | D | 803 |
| Norther Eatern Railway | C | 468 |
| | D | 615 |
| Northeast Frontier Railway | C | 1783 |
| | D | 390 |
| Southern Railway | C | 329 |
| | D | 363 |
| South Central Railway | C | 287 |
| | D | 153 |
| South Eastern Railway | C | 194 |
| | D | 16 |
| Western Railway | C | 284 |
| | D | 541 |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Food served to the railway passengers in recycled packs**

1934. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of recycled packs for serving food to the passengers at the railway stations and in trains;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into such mal-practices being followed in serving food to the railway passengers threatening their health;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Recently on press report about recyling at New Delhi station, an enquiry conducted by Norther Railway revealed that unscrupulous elements and ragpickers are reported to be indulging in recyling. Railways have with the assistance of Railway Protection Force instensified their drives to curb this menace.

Steps taken/proposed to be taken include use of the biodegradable paper cups/glasses, use of good quality kulhars for serving curd in Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains and creating public awarness to crush such items after use.

**Demand for extension of long distange trains upto Gandhidham**

1935. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the demand for extension of long distance trains mainly Howrah-Ahmedabad, Chennai-Ahmedabad, Cochin-Ahmedabad upto Gandhidham;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) the time by which the extension of these trains will be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.